

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the following sections of the Specification. Applicants include herewith a marked up version of the replacement paragraphs, underlined and/or bracketed text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double brackets indicating deletions.

*Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following:*

[0025] These solvents are relatively stable in air, but may be oxidized at high temperatures. Accordingly, the solvent is maintained under an inert atmosphere, e.g., nitrogen or argon[[,]] during the synthesis process. If necessary, the solvent can be maintained under pressure. A semiconductor nanocrystal with a metal-exposed surface, may be maintained in a stable state by the bonds created between the nanocrystal surface and surfactants (e.g., organic ligands from the solvent) and the exposed metal. Some of the surfactants may donate electrons to the exposed metal reducing the electronic state of the metal, and thereby the electronic state of the nanocrystal surface. Other surfactants may be removed by a reducing agent causing the exposed metal to be converted to a metal oxide by reaction with oxygen with atmospheric air. Thus, the semiconductor nanocrystal may have a chemically reduced and/or oxidized surface.